$20,000 in Rare, Old Coins Changes Hands at Convention

Highest Price Paid for $50 American Gold Piece.

It was estimated at the convention of the American Numismatic Association in the Netherland Plaza Wednesday that a total of $20,000 worth of coins were bought and sold in the auction there.

The highest price for which any coin was sold was $485. A very rare $50 American gold piece of 1855 brought that amount.

An extremely rare half-dime of 1802 sold for $302.50. It is stated in the catalogue of the numismatic association that only 16 to 20 such coins are known and that this half-dime is "probably the "U. S. silver coin most in demand and is generally accepted to be more rare, in nice condition, than the 1804 silver dollar." The latter is one of the most highly prized of coins.

There also were sold at the convention and coin exhibition four of the first coins ever struck in the Western Hemisphere. These were four silver pieces and were minted in Santo Domingo between 1505 and 1555. The four pieces, which might have a purchasing value of around $1.75, sold for $367.

J. Douglas Ferguson of Quebec, Canada, the only Canadian ever to have been named president of the American Numismatic Association, was re-elected president. Sol Kaplan, managing director of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association, which is acting as host to the convention, reported Wednesday that "for the first time in the 51 years of the national association's history, no cities have asked for our next year's convention—so it looks as if there may not be a convention next year—on account of the war."

The annual convention dinner will be held Wednesday night. The numismatic exhibition in the Hall of Mirrors will remain open to the general public until Thursday noon.